



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,149	02/08/2001	David Charles Lyons	12929.1062US01	7449
23552	7590	10/14/2003	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			YEUNG, JAMES C	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3749		

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/781,149	LYONS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James c Yeung	3743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 May 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3,5,6 and 9-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 3,5,6,9,19 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,10-18,21,22,25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 23 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3743

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant is advised that the Notice of Allowance dated is vacated. If the issue fee has already been paid, applicant may request a refund or request that the fee be credited to a deposit account. However, applicant may wait until the application is either found allowable or held abandoned. If allowed, upon receipt of a new Notice of Allowance, applicant may request that the previously submitted issue fee be applied. If abandoned, applicant may request refund or credit to a Deposit Account.

2. Prosecution on the merits of this application is reopened on claims 1-2, 10-18, and 21-26 are considered unpatentable for the reasons indicated below:

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2, 21-22, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atemboski (prior art of record) in view of Sinsley '725 (prior art of record).

Art Unit: 3743

Atemboski discloses the invention substantially as claimed. In particular, Atemboski shows in Figs. 3-10 a gas burner for a gas fireplace, comprising:

a burner panel (20) defining a top surface and a bottom surface;

a bottom burner member (26) coupled to the burner panel (20);

wherein the burner panel (20) defines at least one aperture (48) to provide gas/air mixture to the top surface of the burner panel (20); and

wherein the burner panel (20) comprises a molded ceramic-fiber material (note col. 5, lines 35-45).

However, Atemboski does not disclose the use of a compression molding method to make the burner panel.

Sinsley '725 teaches the use of compression injection method for ceramic-fiber artificial fire logs or panels used in gas fireplaces (note col. 1, lines 55-62).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use this known compression molding method such as taught by Sinsley '725 to make the artificial burner panel of Atemboski, since one would merely be using a known method for making such structure.

5. Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimek '237 (prior art of record) in view of Sinsley '725 (prior art of record).

Art Unit: 3743

Shimek '237 discloses the invention substantially as claimed. In particular, Shimek '237 shows in Figs. 15-18 a gas burner for a gas fireplace, comprising:

a burner panel (14) defining a top surface and a bottom surface;

a bottom burner member (17) coupled to the burner panel (14);

wherein the burner panel (14) defines at least one aperture (20,48,63) to provided gas/air mixture to the top surface of the burner panel (20);

wherein the burner panel (14) comprises a molded material (note col. 2, lines 11-19); and

wherein the burner panel (14) comprises a bottom panel of a combustion chamber enclosure (note Figure 12)..

However, Shimek '237 does not disclose the use of a compression molding method to make the burner panel.

Sinsley '725 teaches the use of compression injection method for ceramic-fiber artificial fire logs or panels used in gas fireplaces (note col. 1, lines 55-62).

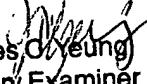
It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use this known compression molding method such as taught by Sinsley '725 to make the artificial burner panel of Shimek '237, since one would merely be using a known method for making such structure.

Art Unit: 3743

6. Claims 23-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James C. Yeung whose telephone number is (703) 308-1047. The facsimile telephone number for this Art Unit is (703) 308-7764.

JY
October 3, 2003


James C. Yeung
Primary Examiner